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LETTER OF SECRETARY OF WAR,

WAR DEPARTMENT, C. S. A., }
Richmond, Dec. 16, 1864. }

To the President :

SIR :—I have received a resolution of the House of Representatives, adopted on the 19th ult., calling for information as to any contracts made by the War Department, in the Trans-Mississippi Department, for supplies of any sort to be paid for in cotton.

In response, I have the honor to report, that no contracts of the character indicated have been made by me directly, or by any of the Heads of Bureaus of this Department, (with a single exception to be hereafter stated,) with individuals or companies in the Trans-Mississippi Department, for the furnishing supplies of any sort to the Department, to be paid for in cotton. The exception referred to is a contract made by the Ordnance Bureau with Marmaduke & Thornton, for ten thousand Enfield rifles, to be delivered at San Antonio, Texas, at thirty dollars each, and to be paid for in cotton there at twelve cents per pound. The contract is dated October 25, 1863, and deliveries were to be made under it in instalments on the 20th April, 20th June, 20th August, and 20th October, 1864. No deliveries have been made, of which the Ordnance Bureau is advised.

If any contracts of the kind mentioned in the resolution have been made with the sanction of the General Commanding the Trans-Mississippi Department, I have not been advised of their terms or results. The power to make contracts, so far as might be necessary for the supply of the army in the Trans-Mississippi Department, was reposed in the General Commanding that Department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JAMES A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War.

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT.

RICHMOND, December 19, 1864.

To the House of Representatives :

In response to your resolution of the 19th ult., I herewith transmit for your information a communication from the Secretary of War, relative to contracts for supplies to be paid for in cotton in the Trans-Mississippi Department.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

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